

DDC's Joint Team Leader, COL Bernard P. LeVan, USAR, Retires

By Jessica Walter-Groft, DDC Command Affairs



LeVan and his wife, Nora, are congratulated by DDC personnel following the retirement ceremony.

During a September ceremony hosted by Defense Distribution Center (DDC) Commander COL (P) Michael J. Lally, USA, COL Bernard P. LeVan, USAR, was retired.

COL (P) Lally recounted COL LeVan's numerous accomplishments during more than 30 years of both active and reserve service including his stint as a battalion commander of the 1678th Logistics Support Battalion in Uniontown, PA; Army reserve team leader for DDC; and the DDC Joint Team Leader from 2000 to 2004.

"COL LeVan's efforts will have a positive impact on reserve support to DDC and our 25 distribution centers worldwide for many years to come," said COL (P) Lally.

As family, friends and co-workers watched, COL LeVan was presented with several awards in recognition of his leadership, devotion to duty, commitment to the Warfighter as well as his support of Operations Noble Eagle, Enduring Freedom

and Iraqi Freedom. In addition to letters from the President of the United States, the Chief of the United States Army Reserve and the Director of the Defense

Logistics Agency, COL LeVan received the Legion of Merit, the bronze Order of the deFleury medal and a flag flown over the capitol on July 26, 2004, at the request of the DLA Joint Reserve Forces Office.

LeVan will continue his career in a civil service position as a logistics management specialist at DLA headquarters in Ft. Belvoir, VA.

A Quick Q & A with DDC's Newest Arrival from Across the Pond

Since the beginning of the Foreign Exchange Officer Program, the Defense Distribution Center (DDC) has been very fortunate to share knowledge with many outstanding officers from Canada, Australia and England.

Lt Col Andrew Nixon, an officer of the British Army's Royal Logistic Corps, is DDC's new British Exchange Officer. During his two-year tour, he will work with the DDC Logistics Operations Transition Team to coordinate transitions at distribution centers after A-76 competitions.

DDC REVIEW: How does your background make you a good match for your current position at DDC?

LT COL NIXON: My service as an officer in the British Army's Royal Logistic Corps has included tours in two of the U.K.'s major distribution depots and I have worked in the Army's personnel management headquarters. I think this gives me a good understanding of the operational issues

and, very importantly, the human resource issues involved in change.

DDC REVIEW: What do you enjoy about DDC?

LT COL NIXON: The best thing about working at DDC has been the people. Everywhere I go I have been made to feel very welcome. I have also been amazed at the level of patience as I stumble my way through US acronyms and ask yet another question.

DDC REVIEW: In your opinion, what is the benefit of the exchange officer program?

LT COL NIXON: The exchange program has a number of significant benefits: Our countries are close allies but we need to build on that relationship by developing real confidence and trust at the personal level. The exchange program gives us that opportunity. Furthermore, though our armed forces differ enormously in size, many of our challenges are very similar. The exchange program gives me the opportunity to draw on U.S. methods and experience and hopefully share some lessons learned in the U.K.

DDC REVIEW: Did you spend much time in the U.S. previously?

LT COL NIXON: I served as a Liaison Officer in the U.S.A. for six months in the mid-1990s. I was working on the planning staff of a major U.K./U.S. exercise which took place in North Carolina.

DDC REVIEW: What do you find most intriguing about the U.S.?

LT COL NIXON: As somebody who has mostly experienced America through books and the media, it is fascinating to be able to visit places and compare the reality with the images I have grown up with. So far, I have not been disappointed!

DDC REVIEW: What do you like to do when you're not at work?



LT COL NIXON: I love being outdoors and I spent the summer walking a small section of the Appalachian Trail with my son. I am also an avid reader and I love films. I like running, but I have lapsed recently and have drifted into cycling and rowing, but my eldest son is threatening to do a marathon with me next year so I need to get out on the road again. Finally, I love cooking and I will happily spend hours in the kitchen with Mozart playing in the background and a glass of wine close at hand.

DDC REVIEW: Is your family with you here in the U.S.?

LT COL NIXON: My wife, Ruth, is a teacher and a writer, and she is hoping to work while we are in America. I have two boys Simon, 16, and John, 12, who are both at boarding school in England. The boys will be spending the major holidays with us.

DDSP's Harrison Recognized as DLA Employee of the Quarter

By Sherre Mitten-Bell, DDSP Public Affairs

When the Defense Logistics Agency Director VADM Kieth W. Lippert, SC, USN, announced the DLA Employee of the Quarter winners for the 4th Quarter of Fiscal Year 2004 in November, he congratulated DDSP Patrolman Jason Harrison as one of two outstanding individuals selected from among 20 nominations.

Patrolman Jason Harrison is a Police Officer with the Defense Distribution Depot Susquehanna, PA (DDSP). His inherent qualities, law enforcement knowledge and experience have made him deserving of this recognition by DLA and the Defense Distribution Center. He sets a high standard



for his position by displaying a positive and courteous attitude and by never hesitating to provide assistance to fellow officers or the more than 4,000 employees and residents of the New Cumberland military installation.

Patrolman Harrison also distinguished himself by earning a perfect score during the Emergency and Non-emergency Response Driving phases of a Federal Law Enforcement Training course he attended in New Mexico. He also qualified as an expert with his assigned service pistol during this training.

Not a stranger to serving his country, Patrolman Harrison came to DDSP as an experienced Federal Police Officer. He also served as a US Marine from 1993 to 1997. "His loyalty to his country and the DDSP Police Department is without question," said Assistant Police Chief Robert Shaw. "He exhibits many personal and professional qualities which make him an outstanding candidate for future positions of leadership within this department."

Umstead and Collins Also Nominated for DLA Employee of the Quarter

Two additional DDC employees were nominated for the DLA Employee of the Quarter Award. Robert Collins, a General Supply

Specialist at Defense Distribution Depot Warner Robbins, GA (DDWG), was nominated for his exceptional team spirit and innovative solutions including the development of tools to track work orders and determine target dates for job completion. DDC headquarters Public Affairs Specialist Stacy Umstead was nominated for her accomplishments in organizing several assumption of command and change of command ceremonies within a short time including the DDC Change of Command ceremony attended by more than 400 people. Umstead also assisted in the professional development of thirteen command support personnel during the year.

DDSI Personnel Awarded for Assistance During Transition

Defense Distribution Center (DDC) Commander COL (P) Michael J. Lally, USA, visited the Defense Distribution Depot Sigonella, Italy (DDSI) along with Pat Kuntz, Chief of DDC's Logistics Support Division, and



COL (P) Lally Presents Joint Service Achievement Medals. From left to right: **Director of DDSI's Operations Division, LT Michael C. McCormack, SKC (AW/SW) Kirkland D. Kirk, COL Lally, SK1 (SW) Jesus P. Manabat, SK1 (SW) Leonil H. Mijares (receiving award), and SK1 (AW) James F. Campbell.** Not pictured: **SK1 (SW) Dorothea O. Bennett and SK1 (SCW) Larissa V. Benoit.**

Laurie Bixler, DDC's Team Lead for Overseas Distribution Centers, to thank the DDSI team for their outstanding achievements in establishing the distribution center and transitioning from Navy to DLA operations.

During his visit, COL (P) Lally presented DDSI Deputy Commander Denise Cordeiro-Bennett with a Letter of Appreciation for her many outstanding accomplishments.



DDSI Motor Vehicle Operators were awarded by COL (P) Lally for "Putting the Mission First." From left to right: **COL (P) Lally, Nunzio Longhitano (Lead), Salvatore Nicolosi, Giuseppe Galata, Carmelo Fisichella, and Salvatore Ferrara.** Not pictured: **Alessandro Catania, Santo Lo Castro, and Antonino Sinatra.**

He also recognized DDSI Distribution Facilities Specialist Robert Pattillo with a Special Act Award for his achievements during the implementation of the Distribution Standards System (DSS) at DDSI.

COL (P) Lally also presented Joint Service Achievement Medals to LT Michael C. McCormack, Chief Petty Officer Kirkland D. Kirk, and Storekeeper First Class Petty Officers Dorothea O. Bennett, Jesus P. Manabat, Leonil H. Mijares, Larissa V. Benoit and James F. Campbell, USN, for their outstanding support to the Warfighter while assigned to DDSI's Transition and Project Management Team in 2004.